States of Maharashtra, Karanataka and Andhra Pradesh as 560 TMC, 700 TMC and 800 TMC respectively. The State of Andhra Pradesh has been permitted to use remaining water, over and above their share in 75% dependable yield, without acquiring any rights on such waters. The Supreme Court judgement dated 25.4.2000 on Original Suit-1 of 1997 filed by Karnataka has observed that the lower riparian State can certainly use any excess water flowing in the river basin, but such uses should not be by way of permanent construction of large scale projects and water reservoirs. The Central Government has not accorded clearance to such projects which commit utilisation of water over and above allocated share of the State by KWDT.

Implementation of river-linking project

936. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of implementation of river-linking project;

(b) whether objections against the proposed project are being raised by neighbouring countries;

(c) the names of the countries and the nature of objections raised;

(d) the forum(s) utilised by them to raise their objections;

(e) whether the basis of such objections have been examined; and

(f) if so, the outcome of examinations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The rivers linking project is at feasibility stage at present. Out of the 30 identified links for preparation of feasibility reports (FRs), (16 under Peninsular Component and 14 under Himalayan Component), FRs of 14 water transfer links under Peninsular Component and two under Himalayan component have been completed.

For the two priority links, *i.e.* Ken-Betwa and Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal discussions for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for starting the work of preparation of Detailed Project Reports between the Union Government and the concerned State have been initiated and are in advance stage. Similar discussions for the third priority link *i.e.* Godavari (Polavaram)-Krishna (Vijayawada) have also been initiated.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Bangladesh feels that inter-linking project would deprive them of sufficient water for their needs in the context of rivers of Himalayan Region.

(d) Government of Bangladesh has expressed apprehension at the proposal of linking rivers in bilateral meetings. The issue was discussed in the 35th meeting of the Joint Rivers Commission held in New Delhi in September, 2003. Similarly, the Bangladesh Prime Minister raised this issue during the bilateral meeting with our Prime Minister on the margins of Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Co-operation (BIMSTEC) summit in May, 2004. It was raised also during the Foreign Office Consultations in June, 2005.

(e) and (f) The Government of India has assured the Bangladesh side that the project was at the conceptual stage. UPA Government gave emphasis in National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) for peninsular component only and therefore apprehension of Bangladesh is not relevant at this stage. The Government of India has also stated that it would not take any unilateral action, which would harm the interest of Bangladesh.

Indus water Treaty, 1960

937. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that talks between India and Pakistan on Tulbul ended recently;

(b) if so, what is the final outcome of the negotiations;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Pakistan is not inclined to adhere to the Indus Water Treaty, 1960; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Secretary Level talks between India and Pakistan on Wullar Barrage/Tulbul Navigation Project were held at New Delhi from 28th to 29th June, 2005 as a part of the Composite Dialogue between the two Countries.